

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Division

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2015

IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY - (# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

CALIFORNIA				Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.80	-	\$2.05
	Orange Blossom	White	\$2.20	Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.55	-	\$1.95
	Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.83	BRAZIL				
DAKOTA				Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.65	-	\$1.84
	Clover	White	\$2.01 - \$2.02	Orange Blossom	Extra Light	\$1.96		
	Western	White	\$2.06	ORGANIC	Extra Light	\$1.79	-	\$1.85
	Western	Extra Light Amber	\$2.06	ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.88	-	\$1.96
FLORIDA				ORGANIC	Amber	\$1.89		
	Mangrove	Light Amber	\$1.50	DOM REPUBLIC				
	Orange Blossom	Light Amber	\$2.20	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.65		
	Palmetto	Light Amber	\$1.80	INDIA				
	Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.90 - \$2.20	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.72	-	\$1.75
	Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.60 - \$1.83	Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.66	-	\$1.72
IOWA				Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.48	-	\$1.65
	Clover	White	\$2.07	Mustard	White	\$1.78		
LOUISIANA				Mustard	Extra Light	\$1.60	-	\$1.84
	Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.70	Mustard	Light Amber	\$1.53	-	\$1.74
MISSISSIPPI				MEXICO				
	Gallberry	Light Amber	\$1.85	Orange Blossom	Extra Light	\$1.97		
	Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.85	Orange Blossom	Light Amber	\$1.99		
OKLAHOMA				Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.85		
	Canola	White	\$1.95	VIETNAM				
TEXAS				Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.49	-	\$1.57
	Tallow	Extra Light Amber	\$1.85	Mixed Flowers	Amber	\$1.50	-	\$1.53
	Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.75 - \$1.85	UKRAINE				
	Horsemint	Extra Light Amber	\$1.96	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.73	-	\$1.77
Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound, ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.				Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.68	-	\$1.77
				Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.60	-	\$1.71
				Sunflower	White	\$1.71		
				Sunflower	Extra Light	\$1.71		
				URUGUAY				
ARGENTINA				Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.57	-	\$1.60
	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.80 - \$1.92					

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING JULY, 2015

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): Temperatures in July were about normal for the month with daytime temperatures in the upper eighties and lower nineties. Evening temperatures ranged from the upper fifties to mid-sixties. Several days saw scattered and isolated thunderstorms and humidity levels were high increasing the disease pressure on crops. Beekeepers are reporting healthy colonies and a very good honey flow with most saying they had to add several more supers per colony. They are monitoring colonies for varroa mites, which continue to be an isolated problem for some beekeepers. For the past few years, pollen sources during July had dried up due to hot, dry weather, but the moisture has kept plants green and providing pollen. Current pollen sources are white clover and various wild flowers such as black-eyed susan, yarrow, common milkweed, monarda, and coneflowers.

ALABAMA: No report issued.

ARIZONA: Temperatures in Arizona were at normal levels during the first week of July, but were at below normal levels for the remainder of the month. The high temperature for the month was recorded in Bullhead City at 116 degrees Fahrenheit; while the low temperature for the month in Arizona was 36 degrees Fahrenheit in Grand Canyon.

During the month of July, the weekly number of reporting stations across Arizona to receive precipitation (out of 50 stations) were 47, 32, 29 and 24, respectively. Out of the 50 reporting stations, 26 are at above normal precipitation levels for the year, with 24 stations at below normal levels for the year.

The main nectar and pollen sources for bees in the state during the month of July were cantaloupes, honeydews, mixed and miscellaneous melons, watermelons, alfalfa and various desert plant bloom. Demand for honey was good.

ARKANSAS: Pollen and nectar sources received during July were from tomato plants, trees, field crops and wild flowers. Bees are in generally good condition. Weather conditions have seen about normal temperatures with adequate rainfall. Supply and demand is good.

CALIFORNIA: Temperatures were seasonal for this time of year and fairly consistent day to day. By the weekend, the one exception occurred in the mountains, where overnight lows cooled some 10 degrees. Most coastal locations highs were in the 70s and 80s and 80s and 90s across the valley. The mountains had mostly 70s and 80s as well, while the desert reported 100-115 degree heat. Overnight lows were in the 50s and 60s along the coast and across the valley, with 70s in the desert, and 40s-50s in the mountains. By the weekend, several mountain locations reported lows in the 30s, a sign that fall might not be that far away.

A repetitive weather pattern settled across the State this week, with mostly dry conditions. A few areas received rain at least once during the week, but most amounts were light. On Thursday, some locations south of Reno-Santa Rosa received some light rainfall with most totals a tenth of an inch or less. The central and northern Sierras received light sprinkles on multiple days, but amounted to barely more than a trace of rainfall.

Bees are actively preparing for the fall and winter. The colonies need to accumulate as much stores as they can. Beekeepers are inspecting their hives and are paying close attention to the condition of the colonies. The bee's health status, quality of the brood and queens as well as the store they contain will be evaluated.

FLORIDA: July had typical Florida summer weather. Hot with numerous and often heavy afternoon thunderstorms in most areas. There were few sources of food for the bees as the heavy rains washed away most of the pollen. There were scattered wildflowers and palm honey was being produced in most areas. Palm honey is consumed by the hive as it has little or no commercial value. An estimated 80% of commercial bee hives were located outside of the state, but many of the bees remaining in the state were being treated for small hive beetles and mites. Bee health was considered average. Brazilian Pepper will begin blooming around the middle of September and will continue until near the end of October. This will be the next major source of honey production for Florida. Bees will begin returning to the state sometime in the late July to late August time period to rebuild and be ready for the Brazilian Pepper season. Some years the bees working alfalfa in the Dakotas will be some of the earliest bees to return, depending upon how many times the alfalfa blooms. Supplies of honey are very light with very good demand.

GEORGIA: Weather conditions have affected the total production of honey this year and the Sourwood supply is expected to be very light again. Quality of honey and color is reported to be good to excellent for the beekeepers that have honey this year. Prices are still high and demand is very strong. The queens are doing well in most areas and bee losses are average with some reporting as much as thirty percent. Good management practices during the year have prevented any major losses from mites and hive beetles. Some areas are feeding the bees while most of the hives are in good shape with a nice fall flow expected. Cotton, Wildflowers and Kudzu are the primary sources of collection, while the Goldenrod is expected to come in soon.

Wildflower \$4/.5 lb \$7/1lb and 12 oz \$11/1.5lb \$13/2lb \$20/qt \$200/5gal bucket

IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH: Temperatures were above normal over most of Idaho and below normal over Utah and Colorado during the month of July, according to the National Weather Service. During the same period, precipitation was slightly below normal over the Northern Panhandle area of Idaho and around Denver, Colorado. The remaining areas of Idaho, Colorado and Utah had some generous rains in July and ended up the month of July with a surplus of precipitation. The up and down weather has created a lot of extra management issues for beekeepers during the month of July.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Colorado continues to have normal moisture conditions across the entire State. Southeast Utah is also currently reporting normal moisture conditions. The rest of Utah and all of Idaho have drought conditions that range from abnormally dry to extreme drought conditions despite the generous rains over many areas in July. The worst drought conditions continue to be in Southwest, Central and Northern Panhandle areas of Idaho and West and Central Utah as of late July.

The main sources of nectar across Idaho, Utah and Colorado in July were alfalfa, yellow sweet clover, sunflowers and mint. Some contract pollination of onions and carrots has now been completed by commercial beekeepers in Idaho. Certainly, this type of pollination service is another great revenue source for commercial beekeepers.

This year is looking very promising at this point of time for the most part. Many commercial beekeepers started to extract wholesale amounts of honey during the second half of July. Until the honey crop is all extracted into barrels, the overall size of the crop through Idaho, Utah and Colorado is still unknown. The real bright spot for honey production in the three State area appears to be in Colorado. After an up and down slow start this spring, continued favorable weather has created the potential for an outstanding honey crop in the State if it warms up and the clouds dissipate according to beekeepers. A few commercial beekeepers needed to feed additional supplements in Utah. There, some beekeepers needed to feed additional pollen patties and sugar syrup to stimulate the bees, mainly due to the up and down weather. One commercial beekeeper explained that he had never fed supplements to his bees in July the whole time that he had been in the bee business. He further stated that he was baffled by some of the hives, because they had good brood patterns. These hives just do not seem to be expanding or making much honey. It is like the bees are on vacation. Besides the up and down weather, the reason for this type of behavior from the bees is totally unknown! The bee health is also really up and down according to commercial beekeepers in Utah. However in Idaho and Colorado, bee health looks very good. According to one Colorado beekeeper, he has not seen the bees look any healthier at any other time in the last 20 years.

Queen bees are working hard with most hives exhibiting good brood patterns at this time. However, there have been some replacement queens necessary in Utah and Idaho commercial bee hives. One beekeeper explained that queens are a constant management issue. They need to have additional queens ready to go at all times in order to keep the hives going at top levels.

At this time mite levels still appear to be in check, but sporadically up and down between hives. Conditions are such that populations could explode if not treated soon after the honey is pulled off of the hives. They are hoping that with the early treatment, they can keep mite population in check. During July there were some reported problems with black bears causing damage to a few bee yards in Utah.

Wholesale demand for honey is very good and continues to exceed the current supply levels. No new crop honey prices have been received from commercial honey producers as of late July. Many beekeepers are predicting wholesale prices to be in the same range as last year, with prices being pressured slightly downward due to cheaper imported honey. According to beekeepers there seems to be a national effort towards promoting organic honey, moving forward. Exactly how a organic program would be structured it still in the planning stages.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures for the month of July were mostly above normal to normal with adequate amounts of rainfall in most parts of the state, with a few days early within the month that ranged in the upper 90s. Temperatures were generally seasonable warmer than normal for the month of July as beekeepers continue extracting honey from their hives and check for mites; However most beekeepers report that they have seen mites, but at this part of the season they haven't become a problem. Most beekeepers report that their bees are in good to excellent condition as they swarm and produce other hives as well as continuous cleansing flights. Beekeepers also report lots of foliage for their bees to feed on as they bring nectar back to the hives. Beekeepers are optimistic that the honey flow for the month of July will be just as good as the one they had in May and June. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Warm and wet conditions were observed, as precipitation was above normal and temperatures varied mostly around normal across the states.

Beekeepers are reporting good honey flows and are continuing to express a good crop, lots of honey is being made. Colonies are looking strong, with little disease. There is being reported that some queens are having issues and mite numbers are starting to rise. There was some late swarming observed. Beekeepers were busy pulling honey supers. Beekeepers continue to point to a great demand for raw unprocessed honey. Nectar sources are alfalfa, yellow clover, white sweet clover, Dutch clover, various ornamentals and wildflowers.

State honey associations and local bee clubs are preparing for their upcoming state fairs in which honey and honey products are displayed and sold.

INDIANA: Temperatures for the month of July were above normal to normal for the state. Early within the month temperatures rose in the high 90s and continued until latter within the month when they averaged in the high 80s. Beekeepers report good to very good weather for the state as their bees continue to feed on foliage such as, wild flowers, clover, and black locust. Beekeepers report their bees in good to very good condition as they swarm for cleansing flights as well as starting other hives. A few Beekeepers report evidence of mites, but has not become a problem. Beekeepers report that they are more afraid of the beetle than the Varroa mite. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

KENTUCKY: No report issued.

LOUISIANA: Pollen and nectar sources received during July were from various trees and wild flowers. Colonies were in generally fair condition throughout the month. Weather conditions have been above normal for this time of year, above normal rainfall with much warmer temperatures. Supply and demand is good.

MICHIGAN: The first half of the month was cooler than normal with frequent showers; consequently only moderate honey flows were reported. The latter half of the month recorded above normal temperatures several days with less rain that has produced a stronger flow, and afforded bees favorable flying weather. Yellow, white and Dutch clover, along with some herbs and mints, nettles, star thistle, milkweed, purple looserstrife, basswood and bee balm has kept bees busy in Michigan. To date, the year has brought average honey production at best. Bees appear to be in good health, although beekeepers need to be vigilant in checking and treating for varroa mite, before populations grow too high. Demand for honey has been strong at farm markets this season. Colony conditions to date appear to be good to excellent, with more variations in colony strengths than beekeepers would like to see for next year. One commercial beekeeper estimated 70% of colonies will be good hone producers, while 30% will be average or non-honey producers. Causes of this could include a compounding of fungicide exposure in blueberries, and/or other virus issues, and mediocre spring queens. Honey flows in Northern Michigan are 10-14 days later than the average over the past two decades. Bees quit robbing from boxes in late July, which should be an indicator of a good summer honey flow underway. In the region, if 2 inches of rain would fall in the next 5 days, a good harvest is expected; if not only an average to below average season is predicted. Small and medium-sized packers are paying \$2.25 per pound (drums exchanged) and are happy to buy at these prices. Large honey buyers are offering \$2.05-2.20 per pound for white honey in semi load quantities (65 or more drums or 42,000 pounds per load). Looking ahead to 2016: almond colony rental pricing appears to be stable at 2015 levels (\$185.00 per unit for premium pollinating units). Typically, contracts are signed beginning August 1 – October 31 for the following year.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures were above normal over Northern portions and below normal over Southern areas of the State during the month of July, according to the National Weather Service. Precipitation was above normal in Southern areas and below normal over Northern areas of the State during the same period. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, most of the State of Minnesota now has normal moisture conditions.

With the abundance of great foraging plants and trees to produce a great nectar flow, July turned out to be a great month overall for Minnesota commercial beekeepers. The main sources of nectar have been Basswood trees, yellow and white sweet clover and an abundance of white dutch clover. During the last few years, honey production has not been very good overall across the State of Minnesota. This year is looking very promising at this point of time, with high poundage of honey per hive expected. Some limited amounts of honey have been extracted during the second half of July. However, many commercial beekeepers will be extracting the bulk of honey into barrels during August. As one beekeeper noted, "Even though the honey crop looks good at this point, it really does not mean anything until it is in the barrel." So with those words of wisdom, we shall wait a little longer for the final tally. Despite the tremendous looking honey crop, bee health is really up and down according to commercial beekeepers. Since commercial beekeepers cannot monitor all of their hives on a daily basis, sometimes they have to play detective in their attempts to figure out issues going on with some of their hives. One beekeeper presented a classic example of not being able to figure out exactly what is going on with some of his hives. The physical evidence shows signs of superseding cells. When there appears to be a good brood pattern, there is a new queen and yet a beekeeper is finding supersede cells, it is just a little puzzling. Typically, supersede cells are formed in hives with a resident queen. The reason workers take this responsibility is because they sense that there is a problem with the current queen and move forward towards creating a new queen with the supersede

cells, thus effectively removing the current resident queen and creating a new one. A number of factors can influence workers to reason that a replacement queen is needed. Any number of negative factors affecting the current resident queen could be in play during this type of scenario including low levels of pheromones to satisfy bees in the hive, the queen could be infested with nosema or other viruses, or any number of other problems. Bottom line is that the bees in the hive make the ultimate decision whether they want to replace their queen and the beekeepers are left with the result. If the hive is functioning and continues to produce good brood and makes good honey then maybe there is no harm done, but the slightest disruption still remains a mystery and potential problem to the beekeeper that are attempting to get the most out of each hive. At this time mite levels still appear to be in check, but sporadically up and down between hives. Commercial beekeepers plan to treat again around August 1st. Formic acid formulations seem to be one of the methods of treatment utilized at the moment by commercial beekeepers due to the fact that they can be applied while the honey is still in the hive.

Wholesale demand for honey is very good and continues to exceed the current supply levels. No new crop honey prices have been received from commercial honey producers as of late July. There are concerns among commercial beekeepers about less expensive honey currently being imported into the United States. There are fears that this could put pressure on domestic prices.

MISSISSIPPI: Hot and dry is the main description for the state. No honey produced right now and the beekeepers are hoping to get some rain for the upcoming Goldenrod flow. The bees may have to be fed with supplemental feed if the conditions do not improve and the heat and lack of rain continues. Most of the beekeepers are managing the hives and treating them as needed to prevent any major problems as had occurred a couple of years ago, therefore the bees are reported to be in good to fair shape considering the weather and lack of moisture.

MONTANA: No report issued.

NEW ENGLAND: New England weather in July, for the most part had average temperatures combined with high humidity early on and throughout the month. Precipitation and soil moisture levels was slightly average and holding steady with ample pollen sources and many nectar sources starting to slow and end quickly. New England has experienced hot daytime temperatures in the high 80s and mid-90s.

There seems to be a pattern where bees are bringing in little nectar and pollen early in the day and robbing is a problem later in the day with many bees feeding. Keepers report that many bees are hanging outside the hives in order to escape the heat while others line up with their backs toward the entrance and fan their wings to create a cooling air flow through the hive. Many hives have bees clustered on the front of the hive with many hives bearding. This indicates that the bees are not out foraging and are opportunistic to any easy nectar source because of their tendency to swarm to the nearest nectar source. Regionally we are in a nectar dearth, so keepers reportedly are watching for syrup feedings if necessary. The bees are finding it hard to find nectar with so much heat and humidity. Additionally, many bees are by the water sources as well, which is customary for this time of season and weather pattern. Bees are putting what they are bringing inside the hive into brood production.

It currently appears that this season's main honey flow is over. It was an interesting honey flow progression this year for New England. It looks like the rest of the summer might be producing a late crop before goldenrod starts blooming. This season's main foraging sources started with wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrow* and *L. tatarica*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), black locust (*Robinia pseudo acacia*), and blackberry (*Rebus* spp.) Followed by multiflora rose, which produces a golden brown pollen, shag horn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), linden-basswood, *Tilia cordata*, *T. Americana*, smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and with much of the region being dominated by white and especially sweet yellow clover. Bees were working black locust, swamp thistle, button bush, purple loosestrife, wild radish, American basswood/linden (*Tilia Americana* and *Tilia cordata*), milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) winged sumac, staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), buckwheat, sweet pepper bush (*Chethora*), meadow sweet (produces a light olive pollen color) as well as vegetable crops and a variety of flowering trees and wild flowers. Some excellent pollen and nectar sources for bees are the legumes such as alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*), purple vetch (*Vicia sativa*), birds foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), and clovers such as white sweet clover (*Trifolium repens*), (*Melilotus alba*) and yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) and native Joe-Pye-weed as well as the ornamental tree Korean Evodia (*Tetradium daniellii*) and corn (*Zea mays*), are all in full bloom at this point in time. Additionally with many unanticipated feeding sources available, this could be one of the best honey crop years in New England. The honey flow will dramatically slow as nectar becomes scarce, brood rearing slows down but there's still a large population of bees. Keepers advise to extract honey as soon as possible and leave enough honey for the bees during July and August when nectar is scarce. Honey flows have been good in strong colonies with keepers reportedly extracting 3 times before starting their mite treatments. Many New England keepers are hoping for massive bamboo (*Fallopia japonica*) flow in late August/early September to fill the supers again.

Early commercial crop pollination services involved cranberries with pollination fees ranging from \$80.00 to \$150.00 mostly \$100.00 per hive colony depending on transportation cost requirements. Farmers are ahead of schedule on many crops and the pollination of squash, cucumbers started the beginning of June such that much of the season is right on schedule of normal activities.

Early harvested honey reportedly was some of the highest quality and lightly colored ever. Harvested honey has been averaging 35 lbs. per colony. Beekeepers have been busy concentrating on extracting honey. The Italian and Russian honeybees have reportedly been the best honey producers with keepers that have been successful with huge honey production numbers. For the most part, colonies were reported to be good condition with few disease or mite problems however; there have been many reported wax moth problems and a few hive beetle issues. Reportedly there have been some chalkbrood problems showing in some open cells that were left open after the abdication of the queen via a swarm event. Tracheal and varroa mites are typically a problem in July and August.

Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains good and honey sales remain firm. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$9.00 to \$12.00 mostly \$12.00, occasionally higher, and 1 Quart bottled units were \$18.00 to \$20.00 mostly \$20.00, occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations, prices were firm with 5 gallon units at \$195.00 to \$240.00 mostly \$230.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality.

In the Northeast overall, the wholesale natural and raw honey price has been around \$2.50 to \$2.80 per pound, mostly \$2.80 per pound, occasionally higher, by the 55 gallon barrel. Propolis reportedly is \$14.00 to \$17.00 mostly \$16.00 for 2 ounces tincture and pollen is \$26.00 to \$30.00 mostly \$28.00 per quart.

NEW YORK: Between rain storms, the basswood flow provided a needed increase to hive weight and assured beekeepers a surplus to our early summer flows. The late spring flow was reasonable for anyone with hives of sufficient strength to take advantage of this flow prior to the onset of rainy summer weather. Hives overall are doing well, in part due to the constant rains having kept the ground moist as well as keeping hay farmers from cutting fields, which added to the available forage. Normally, there is little growth to colonies in August, and any beekeeper that does not pull a summer crop, returns to the hive in early September only to find little honey. Losses during this time often are a pound a day from undisturbed colonies. Now is also when

mite populations crest and if left unchecked, colonies collapse from excessive mite populations. Retail sales in August often stall during periods of very warm weather, as eating patterns are altered.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were mostly above normal throughout July. The state received mostly normal precipitation with statewide soil moisture levels rated 8.5 percent very short, 30 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 5.5 percent surplus the week ending July 25. The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council reported 23 counties as being abnormally dry and 24 counties experiencing moderate drought conditions.

Colonies appeared in moderate condition with noted Varroa mite damage to those with poor management practices. Small hive beetle damage has been sporadic according to apiary inspectors, but mostly below normal for this time of year. It is important to note that going into August hive beetles and Varroa mites have the potential to enter peak populations and beekeepers will have to be diligent at checking hives in order to prevent losses. Another notable issue pressuring colonies has been the above normal temperatures across the state. Nectar flows have been moderate, at best, resulting in low food stores and colony deaths due to starvation, particularly noted in southern areas of the western Piedmont. Where available bees could be seen working Sumac across the State. Sourwood and Basswood, Linden were available in the Mountain region. Various clovers (Ladino, White and Sweet) were available throughout the Mountain and Piedmont regions. Also, available in the Piedmont region were Aslike Clover and Heartsease, Smartweed. Consumer demand for honey remains high and is expected to reach premium prices again this season especially with the anticipation of a light sourwood harvest. Retail prices at the Raleigh State Farmers' Market were: \$8.00 per 8 ounce jar, \$13.00 per 16 ounce jar, \$22.00 per 32 ounce jar, and \$18.00 per 44 ounce jar.

Commercial pollinator hives were either moved to pumpkin fields or placed in recovery as North Carolina spring and summer blooms came to an end.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: The spring started off good but was followed by wet weather, then cooler weather, and finally the smoke that drifted down from the fires in Canada. Disrupting both the forage crops and the bees, there are varied expectations as to the honey crop for this year. Some are coming up short, some with extra, but most are looking production similar to last season or slightly below that. With most areas running behind schedule, extraction and harvest is also running behind.

OHIO: From cool and wet in June to hot and dry in July; honey flows have nearly stopped. Some beekeepers are feeding small colonies. Some worry that the inability to split will raise varroa mite populations! Comb honey is hard to find with prices for local honey supplies climbing. Summer harvesting in early July fairly good; in areas where it did not rain, there was good locust flow. Other forage sources included many wildflowers across Northern Ohio. Ample showers should bring a good goldenrod flow in August, which is greatly needed.

OKLAHOMA: Earlier weather in July had a lot of rain which delayed flowers gardens and crops too wet. Heat has set in for as usual July with occasional rain. Bees are bringing in just enough to sustain themselves and maybe enough for winter but not a lot of surplus even on healthy large hives. Demand is high but supplies right now for pure honey will be low. Bees seem to be really healthy in Oklahoma County with no widespread of hive beetles, only a few. Too much rain is washing away larva when they hit the ground and seems to be drowning them. Now the heat is scorching them. A lot are still supplemental feeding especially with small hives. Alfalfa, legumes, pumpkins, organic farms flowers and Vitex is late blooming. Supply seems to be from out of state bee keepers and sources. Prices seem to be on the rise \$25.00 a quart up from \$20 dollars last year. Locations seem to be dwindling due to housing construction and older farmers selling out. Pollination cannot be filled by those that are still moving bees in Oklahoma

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: No report issued.

TEXAS: In southeast Texas bees are doing very well. All colonies are strong and queenright. Honey was harvested at the beginning of July with very meager results: just 50 pounds of honey from 4 hives. With the bees being strong, it was attributed the shortfall to the wet spring and early summer weather, which kept the beehives bound or washed the nectar out of the blossoms. Interestingly, the little honey that was produced appears to have no privit nectar in it - judging by the taste. Customer reaction to the honey so far has been positive, although some commented have been noted that it tastes too much like regular store-bought honey.

In central Texas saw record 45 days with measurable rainfall in April, May and June. Reports were mixed. Some beekeepers did well and others had little or no harvest. Price remains stable at \$10.00 per pound of local honey. Many so not see any price changes any time soon. Several report to losing a hive to absconding bees or small hive beetle infestation. The tallow trees provided pollen well into July. The public is attuned to the bee dilemma. People want to save bees by relocation rather than pesticides. Local food crop agriculture does not lend itself to pollination fees. There is an increase in urban one hive operations

WASHINGTON: The unusual weather patterns this winter and spring have continued into summer producing concerns about availability of water, and the early bloom this year. The bees have been responding to the change in the environment as well. Less honey is being built up. With the forecast for warm and dry conditions to continue, honey production could be off a bit. Around the state there is talk of losing colonies. Bees are requiring extra feeding, water and care to get through this season.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures for the month of July were seasonably warm for the state of Wisconsin according to a few of the beekeepers for the state, but report very satisfactory for the health of their hives. Beekeepers report adequate rain which was considered marvelous for the swarming of the bees. Beekeepers also report a good harvest, as well as honey flow. Beekeepers report more than enough wild foliage for their bees and noticed that this particular year and season their bees are feeding on wild parsnips, which has given their honey more of a minty taste. A few beekeepers report extractions of honey from their hives as much as 90-100 lbs. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

U.S Exports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to Date		June 2015	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Afghanistan	1,322.00	12,310	0	0
Bahamas, The	824	7,419	0	0
Bahrain	24,566.00	59,629	24,566.00	59,629
Bangladesh	1,000.00	4,435	0	0
Barbados	12,004.00	45,745	0	0
Brazil	4,407.00	10,696	0	0
Cayman Islands	548	3,180	0	0
China	124,596.00	306,611	0	0
Guatemala	897	5,341	0	0
Guyana	6,966.00	24,029	1,143.00	9,894
Hong Kong	2,898.00	11,500	0	0
India	260,400.00	910,470	0	0
Japan	279,392.00	940,184	74,112.00	218,077
Korea, South	148,680.00	794,270	19,592.00	105,604
Kuwait	124,830.00	305,608	919	4,838
Malaysia	4,692.00	11,390	4,692.00	11,390
Mexico	0	0	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	9,695.00	64,101	2,175.00	15,563
Panama	14,911.00	73,661	0	0
Philippines	52,898.00	131,727	0	0
Saudi Arabia	449	3,384	0	0
Singapore	31,917.00	90,189	22,679.00	61,820
Sri Lanka	1,482.00	3,598	0	0
United Arab Emirates	104,973.00	274,308	1,279.00	9,589
Yemen(*)	49,808.00	137,084	0	0

NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED
OR SPECIFIED - - -

Bahamas, The	19,907.00	85,156	1,779.00	6,566
Barbados	3,870.00	24,852	1,391.00	8,759
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	2,014.00	4,889	0	0
Bermuda	28,563.00	78,044	11,256.00	27,050
Canada	658,294.00	2,908,486	98,197.00	437,686
Cayman Islands	649	2,555	0	0
Chile	809	12,853	0	0
China	38,334.00	138,460	35,655.00	118,991
Dominican Republic	3,331.00	11,200	0	0
Germany(*)	4,155.00	13,945	0	0
Guatemala	452	5,194	0	0
Hong Kong	23,011.00	150,501	653	3,298
India	219,540.00	595,082	91,320.00	241,171
Italy(*)	8,262.00	22,920	0	0
Japan	11,035.00	60,787	390	3,555
Korea, South	97,365.00	405,170	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	9,553.00	41,163	3,278.00	13,193
Pakistan	10,761.00	74,923	0	0
Panama	408	3,056	0	0
Philippines	2,850.00	20,942	0	0
Saudi Arabia	51,380.00	130,106	32,517.00	78,925
Singapore	12,435.00	61,346	0	0
Thailand	3,538.00	24,235	3,538.00	24,235
United Arab Emirates	8,324.00	34,777	1,828.00	4,436
United Kingdom	147	2,590	0	0

Vietnam	171,001.00	461,026	61,815.00	160,875
GRAND TOTAL	2,654,143.00	9,605,127	494,774.00	1,625,144

U.S Imports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

Year to Date			June 2015		
Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	3,268,425.00	12,895,316	13,117,456	689,578.00	2,702,288	2,751,446
Australia(*)	19,490.00	79,909	80,909	0	0	0
Brazil	408,143.00	1,749,868	1,793,930	19,095.00	80,199	82,135
Canada	4,944,162.00	21,324,254	21,429,692	216,822.00	970,163	975,561
China	802	5,135	5,435	802	5,135	5,435
Dominican Republic	6,282.00	17,612	18,781	1,650.00	4,812	5,112
France(*)	675	6,272	6,447	0	0	0
Germany(*)	614	2,095	2,162	0	0	0
India	1,955,445.00	6,826,411	6,974,913	589,140.00	2,047,770	2,094,413
Italy(*)	3,694.00	28,197	33,847	0	0	0
Mexico	1,486,621.00	6,183,494	6,226,961	605,009.00	2,466,488	2,484,964
New Zealand(*)	6,073.00	12,145	12,833	0	0	0
Serbia	1,416.00	9,183	9,755	0	0	0
Taiwan	132,881.00	284,138	304,119	0	0	0
Thailand	354,264.00	945,509	987,009	38,814.00	120,860	121,860
Ukraine	18,154.00	68,037	68,537	0	0	0
United Kingdom	2,117.00	17,527	18,909	0	0	0
Uruguay	452,714.00	1,680,947	1,696,901	170,212.00	604,858	609,230

EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	10,246,849.00	40,673,919	42,117,506	1,840,798.00	6,870,818	7,173,393
Australia(*)	19,500.00	88,725	89,288	0	0	0
Brazil	392,445.00	1,516,951	1,570,299	38,860.00	150,480	155,384
Burma	19,500.00	59,425	62,689	19,500.00	59,425	62,689
Canada	182,686.00	890,523	895,256	6,695.00	44,271	44,552
Denmark(*)	1,682.00	12,294	12,933	0	0	0
France(*)	8,924.00	41,971	43,315	820	13,956	14,169
India	7,504,016.00	24,518,652	25,376,553	1,496,800.00	4,942,495	5,103,000
Italy(*)	10,958.00	27,549	29,152	0	0	0
Japan	10	2,790	2,970	10	2,790	2,970
Mexico	1,848,946.00	7,337,745	7,418,282	556,351.00	2,074,837	2,101,623
New Zealand(*)	45,404.00	109,211	120,806	14,475.00	54,664	60,142
Portugal	219	2,408	2,608	0	0	0
Taiwan	943,620.00	2,228,733	2,316,433	330,575.00	703,199	720,699
Thailand	1,284,197.00	3,429,904	3,520,093	91,800.00	246,942	247,855
Ukraine	6,394,873.00	20,804,185	21,995,844	1,373,802.00	4,589,443	4,743,724
Uruguay	1,572,184.00	5,481,148	5,619,846	672,363.00	2,280,887	2,341,636
Vietnam	191,080.00	541,836	576,161	95,680.00	272,592	289,772

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	1,022,745.00	4,023,505	4,162,568	267,870.00	1,003,402	1,041,705
Australia(*)	5,747.00	75,274	76,204	0	0	0
Austria	62,014.00	544,948	578,792	6,079.00	59,897	64,265
Brazil	1,043,882.00	3,949,981	4,068,925	112,660.00	404,056	426,640

Bulgaria	17,716.00	65,652	70,180	0	0	0
Burma	831,300.00	2,030,020	2,157,004	0	0	0
Canada	328	2,284	2,315	0	0	0
Cote d'Ivoire	76,800.00	220,032	220,034	0	0	0
Croatia	1,296.00	11,114	11,344	864	7,452	7,680
Denmark(*)	4,896.00	38,304	40,365	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	375,257.00	1,199,974	1,252,506	132,158.00	449,828	466,630
Ethiopia(*)	20,880.00	88,740	91,275	0	0	0
Germany(*)	80,853.00	403,398	422,422	9,900.00	50,820	52,820
Greece	4,731.00	27,823	29,446	0	0	0
Hong Kong	7,524.00	49,286	50,160	0	0	0
India	7,166,130.00	22,416,768	23,370,624	1,593,690.00	5,158,935	5,398,472
Israel(*)	1,363.00	8,225	8,493	0	0	0
Italy(*)	2,826.00	50,759	52,297	0	0	0
Jamaica	1,090.00	14,520	16,520	1,090.00	14,520	16,520
Kuwait	2,779.00	24,689	27,196	0	0	0
Mexico	127,266.00	474,494	478,424	0	0	0
Pakistan	4,886.00	20,116	22,128	0	0	0
Spain	14,384.00	115,305	119,348	3,760.00	28,736	30,328
Switzerland(*)	492	2,595	2,596	0	0	0
Taiwan	846,039.00	1,945,896	2,012,016	153,714.00	354,024	367,844
Thailand	4,588,879.00	11,562,122	12,223,043	1,350,360.00	3,386,875	3,573,531
Turkey	2,922,060.00	8,291,880	9,055,882	372,000.00	1,134,600	1,218,600
Ukraine	609,322.00	1,938,230	2,015,729	171,000.00	532,809	549,211
Uruguay	1,556,802.00	5,077,154	5,182,593	651,814.00	2,108,966	2,162,267
Vietnam	13,995,806.00	39,451,343	41,428,745	4,025,268.00	11,562,242	12,102,197

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Argentina	53,397.00	202,909	217,909	18,587.00	70,631	75,631
Australia(*)	94	2,419	2,539	0	0	0
Brazil	18,744.00	63,167	68,167	0	0	0
Canada	40,983.00	112,604	122,775	19,459.00	45,045	50,045
Dominican Republic	265,670.00	670,042	700,322	40,076.00	117,282	126,187
Egypt	4,474.00	21,900	23,366	1,120.00	6,900	7,406
France(*)	3,051.00	45,017	46,496	240	6,146	6,251
Greece	15,886.00	120,582	128,558	0	0	0
India	49,888.00	201,828	212,254	0	0	0
Indonesia	121,800.00	328,860	343,860	0	0	0
Israel(*)	94	2,700	2,786	0	0	0
Italy(*)	4,637.00	75,622	78,427	111	2,443	2,562
Lithuania	3,487.00	16,781	17,689	3,487.00	16,781	17,689
Mexico	283,508.00	1,102,444	1,109,556	79,731.00	329,964	334,488
Moldova	3,535.00	6,315	7,354	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	508,351.00	5,111,076	5,223,450	95,679.00	1,624,311	1,644,295
Pakistan	1,338.00	6,150	6,960	1,338.00	6,150	6,960
Poland	18,250.00	72,593	79,591	10,912.00	28,987	31,764
Russia	37,663.00	175,239	184,234	0	0	0
Spain	1,193.00	11,303	11,980	960	8,738	9,375
Taiwan	326,115.00	878,507	930,595	27,556.00	81,755	84,203
Turkey	1,419.00	7,996	11,749	0	0	0
Ukraine	58,623.00	173,093	184,752	0	0	0
Uruguay	17,144.00	38,574	41,074	0	0	0
Vietnam	1,037,998.00	2,783,731	2,910,597	0	0	0

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Argentina	11,295.00	49,746	52,445	1,042.00	17,882	20,579
Austria	2,926.00	37,203	39,763	708	6,767	7,072
Brazil	14,502.00	110,094	112,430	0	0	0
Bulgaria	71,448.00	257,035	272,751	12,667.00	40,208	42,708
Canada	46,290.00	362,515	363,367	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	5,453.00	24,436	25,300	3,215.00	13,348	13,920
Egypt	7,999.00	12,534	13,872	0	0	0
France(*)	244,325.00	968,990	1,008,835	51,620.00	195,773	202,949
Germany(*)	213,587.00	993,423	1,036,684	71,326.00	343,054	359,526
Greece	27,044.00	293,515	306,041	0	0	0
Guatemala	10,680.00	36,450	41,030	816	3,700	4,013
Hungary	24,038.00	162,567	173,453	3,130.00	33,664	34,248
India	395,570.00	1,245,049	1,296,377	60,076.00	196,187	203,687
Israel(*)	1,858.00	12,960	13,010	0	0	0
Italy(*)	6,240.00	93,644	96,379	1,216.00	20,307	20,626
Kazakhstan	697	3,483	3,831	697	3,483	3,831
Lithuania	4,964.00	21,834	24,018	0	0	0
Mexico	17,933.00	74,197	78,824	1,500.00	2,483	3,083
New Zealand(*)	525,862.00	4,047,315	4,097,785	135,296.00	1,209,298	1,219,405
Poland	16,589.00	69,176	73,499	1,601.00	13,757	14,499
Portugal	22,290.00	139,630	146,082	4,658.00	29,268	30,594
Russia	27,303.00	98,216	108,030	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	1,553.00	13,117	13,326	763	6,600	6,720
Serbia	5,582.00	41,264	43,537	0	0	0
Spain	76,824.00	585,494	604,315	28,872.00	224,049	230,424
Switzerland(*)	12,743.00	77,605	81,099	1,026.00	16,736	17,343
Taiwan	53,207.00	111,707	118,584	21,111.00	22,630	24,651
Turkey	76,128.00	489,465	505,408	27,017.00	183,163	187,820
Ukraine	30,148.00	88,607	95,139	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	908	5,400	5,607	0	0	0

FLAVORED HONEY –

Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	1,959.00	5,984	6,370	0	0	0
Canada	7,084.00	103,020	103,708	0	0	0
China	11,209.00	59,523	61,076	0	0	0
El Salvador	2,309.00	9,070	10,619	0	0	0
Finland	73	14,130	14,298	0	0	0
India	36,055.00	79,768	83,277	0	0	0
Ireland	516	5,017	5,589	313	2,692	3,020
Italy(*)	1,281.00	46,704	47,565	60	5,240	5,317
Japan	180	22,877	22,977	0	0	0
Korea, South	113,554.00	1,957,409	2,012,890	14,173.00	204,621	209,464
Lebanon	240	3,600	3,744	0	0	0
Mexico	55,333.00	497,810	503,359	7,210.00	73,800	74,368
New Zealand(*)	76	12,207	12,454	0	0	0
Poland	880	3,179	3,396	0	0	0
Russia	2,600.00	4,542	4,996	0	0	0
Spain	739	5,238	6,252	0	0	0
Taiwan	21,749.00	53,596	57,161	3,125.00	5,843	6,332
Thailand	44,048.00	193,808	199,549	23,239.00	97,560	100,150
Turkey	915	4,744	4,855	915	4,744	4,855

ORGANIC HONEY –

Argentina	254,066.00	1,139,920	1,208,319	74,924.00	303,825	328,325
Australia(*)	9,240.00	75,010	77,510	0	0	0
Brazil	6,724,465.00	26,313,606	27,289,603	1,288,957.00	4,852,344	5,043,711
Canada	28,235.00	216,731	221,513	1,143.00	8,820	8,844

Greece	960	12,681	12,904	0	0	0
India	54,000.00	151,313	153,256	0	0	0
Italy(*)	7,988.00	73,201	75,965	0	0	0
Mexico	44,952.00	193,090	199,493	21,516.00	92,330	94,833
New Zealand(*)	13,759.00	173,971	178,634	0	0	0
Ukraine	130,095.00	410,915	435,415	0	0	0
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GRAND TOTAL	91,527,046.00	318,629,236	330,342,412	19,885,066.00	68,145,843	70,594,247

Notes:

1. Data Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics
2. All zeroes for a data item may show that statistics exist in the other import type. Consumption or General.
3. (*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries.
4. Users should use cautious interpretation on QUANTITY reports using mixed units of measure.
QUANTITY line items will only include statistics on the units of measure that are equal to, or are able to be converted to, the assigned unit of measure of the grouped commodities.
5. The CIF Value is not included within the 13th month data loads. This means that the CIF Value will be zero (0) for any records that are inserted during this process.
6. Product Group : Harmonized